Property - 1925

See Also. Business.

Cities.

Secret Societies.

Segregation.

Property- 1925

Alabama.

MRS. CYRUS GIVEN BULK OF ESTATE

Booker T. Jr., and David Washington Given Old Homesite

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—According to the provisions of the will of Mrs. Margaret Washington, widow of the founder of Tuskegee Institute, Mrs Bundler C. Cyrus, of Chicago, will get the bulk of the estate. Mrs. Cyrus is an adopted daughter who was reared from infancy in the Washington family.

Thomas M. Washington, an adopted son; Miss Alice Simmons, a cousin, and Miss Maggaret Cyrus will also share in the estate, which is said to amount to $50,000, including property in Tuskegee and Chicago. The homesite at Tuskegee will be divided between Booker T., Jr., and Davidson Washington, children of Booker Washington by a former marriage.

Booker Washington Furniture Sold

Tuskegee, Ala. (A. N. P.)—The entire contents of Booker T. Washington's famous home were put on sale here Wednesday, including the antique furniture, imported rugs and bric-a-brac of all kinds. The home and its furnishings were willed by the late educator to his two sons, David and Booker, Jr., and to his daughter, Portia.

Criticism of the sale was heard on the ground that the public would have preferred to see the contents of the home preserved with the house.

Sell Booker T. Washington's Furniture

Tuskegee, Ala., July 7 (ANP).—The entire contents of Booker T. Washington's famous home were put on sale here Wednesday, including the antique furniture, imported rugs, bricabrac of all kinds. The home and its furnishings were willed by the late educator to his two sons, David and Booker Jr., and to his daughter, Portia. Criticism of the sale was heard on the ground that the public would have preferred to see the contents of the home preserved with the house.

Property-1925.

Arkansas.

NEGRO CHURCH WINS.

Will Be Given Permit to Drill Its Second Oil Well.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Sept. 17.—(AP)—Owned and occupied by the Snow Hill Negro Baptist Church for 40 years before oil was discovered flowing beneath it, a little two-acre tract of land in the Smackover deep sand area of Union County is to have its second oil well. Leroy F. Chappell, commissioner of conservation, today announced that a permit would be issued when a properly executed bond is filed.

The little church congregation did not gain access to the "flowing gold" without a legal struggle. The state conservation laws provide that no person may drill an oil well within 150 feet of the property of another except under certain conditions and after these conditions have been established at a public hearing in the event a protest is filed.

The tract of land is one acre wide and two acres long. A small producer has been drilled near the center. When the deep sand was discovered the congregation asked for another permit but a protest was filed by a large oil company holding adjacent property. A hearing was held several weeks ago and today Commissioner Chappell announced that it had been decided that 40 years of ownership and occupancy constitute a superior right to any mineral that may be beneath the soil.

Negro Gets Part Of His Colored Master's Estate

Texarkana, Ark., Nov. 17.—(By A. N. P.)—Ned Brooks, 62, has been awarded a judgment of $50,000 against the estate of the late J. H. Herndon. Herndon was 82 when he died. In the suit filed by Brooks, it was stated that the plaintiff had worked for the deceased defendant for nearly fifty years without pay and that it was with the understanding that if Herndon died, Brooks was to get the estate. Shortly before he died, Herndon discovered oil on his farm property, and his wealth grew to nearly one million dollars. He left it to near relatives and Brooks contested the will. As soon as the suit ws filed, $60,000 in a local bank

Property-1925

California.

Chicagoans Named in Will of Rich California Woman

Los Angeles, Calif., March 13.—Miss M. L. Jones, pioneer Race school teacher in this state, died in Sacramento last week at the age of 76. For 15 years before her retirement as principal of a mixed graded school in Sacramento, Miss Jones became known as one of the most distinguished teachers on the Race in this section.

A graduate of Oberlin, Miss Jones began her teaching in Sacramento in 1873, at the age of 24. She took charge of a school and for 29 years worked in a ship carpenter's schoolhouse on [illegible] the hours she devoted to calling upon the sick, and working in the church. When in 1895 the Color line was abolished in the schools, Miss Jones was made principal of the N St. mixed school, over 10 white teachers and several hundred pupils. For several years attempts were made at board of education elections to oust her, but she held the position until her voluntary retirement.

For several years she had lived quietly [illegible] Mrs. [illegible] died by Dr. W. J. Carmichael of San Francisco, and Ruth Parsons of Sacramento, distributes [illegible] estate valued at $47,000. Two sisters, Anna and Emma Jones of Chicago, are the chief beneficiaries. The estate will be held in trust for them until their death, when two-fifths will be given to George D., Edgar T., and Earl Gray, all of Chicago, nephews. The rest will go to Ben Gray, Sr., of Chicago, and his four children, Ben, Jr., Ruth, Will and Mildred.

Property - 1925. Connecticut.

N. Y. C. HERALD TRIBUNE
JANUARY 8, 1925

Slavery Negro Leaves $50,000 Estate in Middletown, Conn.

Special to The New York Herald Tribune

MIDDLETOWN, Conn., Jan. 7.—Thomas E. Smith, a negro, who was born a slave in Virginia and escaped to the Union lines in the Civil War, died here to-day the owner of a four-story brick block in Main Street. His estate will amount to nearly $50,000.

Smith was the proprietor of an antique and second-hand shop. He was an active prohibition worker, and had been nominated for office on the state ticket. He was also an active worker in the Salvation Army.

NEW YORK CITY WORLD
JANUARY 8, 1925

Born a Negro Slave, Dies Rich, Respected Connecticut Citizen

Thomas E. Smith, Once Fugitive, Built Up Flourishing Middletown Business.

Special Despatch to The World

MIDDLETOWN, Conn., Jan. 7.—Thomas E. Smith, an aged Negro, born a slave in Virginia who escaped to the Union lines and joined the Federal forces in the Civil War, died here yesterday the owner of a four-story brick block on Main Street. His estate will total about $50,000.

Mr. Smith opened a small antique and second-hand shop. He developed the business, became well to do and won the respect of the community. He was an active Prohibition worker and has been nominated for office on the State ticket.

He was also an active worker in the Salvation Army, and attended the jubilee celebration of that organization in England several years ago serving as a delegate from this country.

Property - 1925.

D.C.

WILL OF MRS. FRANCIS FILED, SON EXECUTOR

Estate Is Valued at $200,000

Washington, D. C., May 29.—Howard university, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Phyllis Wheatley Y. W. C. A. branch and the Missionary society of the 15th St. Presbyterian church are named as beneficiaries in a will involving $200,000 in legacies left by Mrs. Betty G. Francis, who died in Philadelphia after an operation. Mrs. Francis, one of the oldest citizens of Washington, named her son, Hugh R. Francis, as executor in the will, which was filed for probate Friday. The will was undated.

Howard university was bequeathed $2,500 for the maintenance of the John R. Francis scholarship in its medical school, the N. A. A. C. P. and the Y. W. C. A. branch were given $1,000 each, while the Missionary society received $200.

Among the private bequests were: Property at 1619 Corcoran St. to Dr. Milton A. Francis, property at 1621 Corcoran St. to Dr. John B. Francis, Jr., property at 1623 Corcoran St. to Hugh R. Francis, property at 1625 Corcoran St. to Cedric E. Francis. Mrs. Dorothea Francis Hart was given the property at 2112 Pennsylvania Ave. and the summer home at Highland Beach, Md., along with certain bonds, stocks and cash in the bank.

Property – 1925

Florida.

FLORIDAN WORTH $100,000 IS DEAD

Pensacola, Fla., March 20.—John Sunday, long recognized as a heavy contributor to "white folks" charities, and a picturesque character in Escambia county, was shown to have been one of the richest men in this city when the filing of his will, recently offered for probate, showed him the owner at the time of his death of $80,800 in real estate and $17,662 in personal property. It is said that Mr. Sunday owned more than 50 houses in Pensacola.

NEGROES PROFIT FROM FLORIDA REAL ESTATE

Jacksonville, Fla., July 1 (ANP).—Negroes are profiting from the great real estate boom which is sweeping the state, and making millionaires over night. Many of our people who bought lands years ago, which was not wanted by the whites have been offered almost unbelievable prices for it. Lands which were low, wet, and in undesirable localities and sold to Negroes for little more than nothing, are bringing prices which are a fortune to our people. Ther will be many a Negro made wealthy when the boom is over. The following are concrete examples of what our people are doing. At Miami a Negro who purchased a small island over thirty years ago at $1 an acre sold it recently for $250,000. Another who paid $250 for a small tract of land way out received $212,000. The Manhattan beach near Jacksonville, which was purchased five years ago by a group of our business men for $45,000 sold recently for $115,000, and had they held it the price would be much more today. Opportunities to acquire wealth through handling real estate by our people are also here. A realty man of this city recently bought a piece of property for $8,000, putting up an option, and two hours later sold it for $8,500. These are some of the things that the realty boom is doing for our people in Florida.

NEGRO PROPERTY OWNERS OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA ARE PROFITING BY LAND BOOM

One Man Reported to Have Sold Five Acres For $110,000—Others Get 200 to 500 Per Cent On Their Realty Holdings

Daytona, Fla.—The foresight and thrift of Negroes who struggled for years to acquire farms and other real estate in Florida, is being rewarded this year as never before. The real estate boom which has been sweeping the entire state and which reached its height in the Everglades and East Coast sections, has resulted in the making of fortunes for many Negro property owners, as well as for the whites.

Everywhere one goes one hears stories of fabulous profits made out of the sale of land purchased years ago for next to nothing. At Miami, where the population has jumped from 30,000 to 80,000 in about five years, there are over 10,000 colored people. Formerly the majority of these people were employed in domestic service around the winter resorts. Many of them made good money and some invested in real estate. Their property was mostly in the swampy sections, then considered the most undesirable.

Swamp Lands In Demand

It is these sections near the water that are now the most sought after. Northern builders and engineers have shown the local residents how to fill in and build up the former swamp lands so that they become veritable "Gardens of Eden."

One colored man, who used to push a roller chair on the beach—the tourists call these chairs "Airamobiles" because they are operated by Negroes—bough five acres of swamp land about ten years ago. He paid $100 for the five acres and many of his friends told him that he had been stuck. A few weeks ago he sold this land to a development syndicate for a sum reported to be $110,000.

There are other sales equally as profitable reported in this section. Many of those who sell are planning to move North or West, but two migrants come in for every one who moves away. Work is being opened up for the laborers and mechanics in the building trades and on the railroads and highways of the state. Despite a very hostile white population the professional men of Miami are making more money than anywhere in the country. The wealthiest citizens are a physician and the principal undertaker.

Bankrupt Regains Wealth

In Daytona, St. Augustine, Jacksonville, and other cities, the boom is also being felt, although land values have not increased with such rapidity as they have further South. But an illustration of the prosperity prevalent everywhere is the case of Charles H. Anderson, ex-banker and fish merchant.

About four years ago Mr. Anderson suffered such severe reverses that he was forced into bankruptcy. The receiver appointed for his property was wise enough to not sell it immediately and a recent report has it that the real estate he owned has so increased in value that not only will the creditors receive 100 cents on the [illegible] but a handsome profit will accrue to Mr. Anderson when the final settlement is made.

Real estate men all over the country are pointing to Florida as a justification of the slogan: "Real estate is the safest and most profitable investment in the world."

Property - 1925

Georgia.

"A South Georgia negro doctor recently died," says the Savannah News, "leaving an estate in good shape, amounting to over fifty thousand dollars. There is opportunity for the worthy man of either race and of any legitimate vocation or profession in the South Georgia territory." It is needless to say that this man did not earn his fortune interfering with other people's affairs and especially his white neighbors, nor did he spend his earnings in riotous living.

Negro Doctor Leaves An Estate of $40,000

Bainbridge, Ga., Dec. 29.—Dr J. W. Johnson, fifty-five one of the best known negroes here, died Sunday. After graduating at the Philadelphia Dental college, he practiced here eighteen years. During the World War he gave efficient service to the women in charge of the civilian relief department. A courteous negro, generous to all activities, he will be greatly missed. His estate is said to be worth $40,000.

TOTAL NEGRO WEALTH IN U. S. TWO BILLIONS

Atlanta.— Two billion of dollars is the present estimated wealth of negroes in the United States, according to a recent survey of the American Sociological Society by Prof. Monroe N. Work, of Tuskegee Institute. The wealth of the group in 1912 was estimated at $700,000,000.

The survey reveals great progress also in negro education, the amount expended for this purpose by all agencies having been about $40,000,000 in 1924, as against $13,576,561 in 1912. Up to 1912 5,000 negroes had completed college courses. Since that time, the number has doubled.

The race has made decided gains also in the matter of wealth. The death rate, which was 22.9 per thousand in 1912, had fallen to 15.7 in 1922, or a decrease of 31 per cent.

There are now almost a million more negroes living in cities than there thirteen years ago and over half a million more living in the North than at that time.

The 1920 census reported 332,249 negroes engaged in skilled and semi-skilled work.

Property — 1925

Illinois.

ROBINSON HEIRS CLAIM MILLIONS

Chicago, Ill.—Heirs of the late Elbert R. Robinson, inventor, who died here recently, expect to inherit a sum estimated at $13,000,000.

Robinson was formerly a chiropodist, and later became a blacksmith and a contractor. He invented the chilled-groove rail, which is now used on all railroads. His invention was patented and he claimed stolen by a white man who sold it to the railway company and died a millionaire.

Fighting through all the courts in the land to regain his rights, Robinson finally won in the State Supreme Court. The decision entitled him to $13,000,000 in royalty since his invention began to be used 17 years ago. The case was appealed and is now pending.

Robinson also invented the third rail for elevated railways and a concrete mould in which pillars for foundations of buildings are made.

The widow, Mrs. Adie Robinson, and a number of relatives survive.

NEW YORK [illegible]
MAY 5, 1929

NEGRO MAYOR LEFT $300,000

Brooklyn, Ill., May 5.—Charles B. Jones, a negro, who was to have been inaugurated for his fourth two-year term as Mayor of this city, and who died Sunday, left an estate valued at $300,000 or more. Jones was sixty-four years old and lived here for forty-four years. He was in turn principal of the public school and City Supervisor, and since his election as Mayor six years ago, he had held the office of Supervisor also.

Brooklyn has a population of about 2000 persons, all of whom are negroes, with the exception of four white families.

CHICAGO ILL. JOURNAL
MARCH 13, 1925

Financiers to Chicago's "Black Belt"

The Binga State bank at 3451 South State street. Inset, right, Jesse Binga, president; left, John R. Marshall, vice president.

Negro Wealth 460 Millions

Sixty of These, Cash on Deposit in Chicago Banks; Remainder Is Real Estate

Every negro in Chicago is credited with an average of $2,000 worth of real estate and $300 cash in the financial statistics of Chicago, according to Jesse Binga, wealthy negro, owner and president of the Binga State bank, 3451 South State street.

"Negroes in Chicago have $60,000,000 on deposit in various city banks, and own $400,000,000 worth of real estate," said Mr. Binga. "That is doing pretty well for 180,000 people, which is the colored population of Chicago.

"Wealth is growing rapidly among our people. One of the chief reasons for this is the constantly increasing value of negro property on the south side.

Cites His Own Experience

"Take the example of the land on which the Binga bank stands. Property along here was selling at $300 a foot several years ago. There were cabarets and many other places of similar character. Since this bank was establishing, property has advanced to $1,000 a foot.

"I own the Forty-seventh block on State street, 350-foot frontage, on the west side of the street, and was offered cash $350,000 for it recently.

"Several years ago, south-side colored people found themselves unable to make loans on their property, because white bankers did not consider property in this section stable in value. Neither did they consider the negro a good financial risk. Property values began to shrink fast.

"In self defense, our people organized themselves financially to take up our own loans.

Negro a Good Risk

"Our financiers discovered that the negro property holder is just as safe a risk financially as any other property owner. They took care of their financial paper in good shape, and met their bank obligations promptly.

"There is plenty of money among our group for loans, and soon we were all making so much money that the white money lenders got back into the game. Now it is as easy for a negro to get a loan on his property as anyone else. We have created a healthy competition by organizing ourselves.

"This condition stabilized property values in the black belt. With the increase in the value of footage on this end of State street, business of a higher class is taking over the property, making this increased value permanent. That is what is happening in Chicago's negro colony."

Jackson's Fortune Had Corner-Stone In Coal; Real Estate

Chicago papers recently devoted columns of space to the death of George Jackson, wealthy race lawyer. His fortune had its cornerstone in coal.

Prior to the Civil war, Robert Gordon was a slave belonging to a Virginia giner—there was no West Virginia then. In those days slack coal was thought unsalable. Gordon begged the "leavins" from his master, barged it down to Cincinnati, sold it and kept on selling it until he accumulated $1,000, with which he purchased his freedom. He introduced slack coal on the Cincinnati market.

Later, Gordon moved to Cincinnati, where he engaged in the retailing of coal, invested his money in real estate and became rich. Jackson was a youth whom he educated to be a lawyer, and who later married Gordon's daughter.

WHITE WOMAN WILLS HER ESTATE TO HER COLORED ADOPTED SON

TUSCOLA, Ill., Oct. 7—Through the Will of a white woman, Mrs. Josiah Wright, who died here Sunday, her colored adopted son, Thomas Wright, will inherit her estate.

Wright's mother, who came North with the family from Kentucky many years ago, died while he was still in infancy and the Wrights adopted the orphan.

BINGA FIRST ON CHICAGO TAX LIST

Chicago, Ill.—
Jesse Binga, Banker, 5972 S. Park avenue, paid an income tax this year of $5,-007.51. He leads the list of Chicago income tax payers.

By rough estimate, Mr. Binga income last year was $45,000 and Mr. DePriest's approximately $30,-000.

Anthony Overton 5200 Wabash avenue, head of the Overton Hygienic Company and of the Douglass National Bank, paid an income tax of $74.96.

No record was found of Mr. Geo. Cleveland Hall. Louis B. Anderson, alderman of the Second Ward, paid in income tax of 41 cents.

David Manson

David Manson, traffic manager of the Ohio Iron and Metal Company, with offices here, paid income tax of $101.35.

Mrs. Frank L. Gillespie, 4525 Grand Boulevard, widow of the founder of the Liberty Life Insurance Company, paid $61.51. Edward Morris, nationally known civil lawyer, 7258 Yates avenue, paid $57.10. Edward Wright, 3844 Calumet avenue, who is said to be the strongest political leader in these parts, and a member of the Illinois Commerce Commission and Ward Committeeman of the second ward, paid $6.23

Dr. L. K. Williams

S. A. T. Watkins, 3736 Grand Boulevard, who is the highest legal offier i nthe Pythians and long known as the pioneer democratic leader inChicago paid $9.75. Dr. L. K. Williams, 3115 S. Park avenue, president of the National Baptist Convention, paid $56.92.

Dr. R. A. Williams, head of the Royal Circle of Friends, defeated candidate for alderman of tne third ward, and whose daughter sails for France to spend a year in studying abroad, paid $125.13.

Robert S. Abbott, 4847 Champlain avenue, editor of the Chicago Defender, paid $1 270.49.

Dr. A. Wilberforce Williams, internationally known authority on pulmonary diseases and authority on numerous health articles, paid $139.90.

Property - 1925. Oklahoma

Using "Oil" As Stepping Stone To Power And Wealth, Oklahoma 'The Boomer State' Boasts Many Race Millionaire Families

Individual Wealth of Scores Placed in Excess of $500,000 — High Powered Motor Cars Their Passion—Home of Rectors, Claytons, Henry Lawrence, Luther Manuel, Rosella Murrell, Hickmans, Lewis Inghram and Others.

By LESTER A. WALTON
(In The New York World.)

MUSKOGEE, Okla., Sept. 17.—Out here in Oklahoma one comes in personal contact with more duly accredited and potentially wealthy Negroes per capita than can be found in any other State. Oil is their fairy-god-mother. High-powered motor cars are their passion.

In this young commonwealth where oil is king and riches come to the fortunate in Aladdin-like fashion overnight, it is an easy matter to point out scores of Negroes whose wealth runs into six figures. One or two are rated as millionaires. A freedman whose only source of income today is from agricultural pursuits may wake up tomorrow to learn that from the discovery of an oil well he or she has been catapulted into affluence.

Oklahoma's history teems with adventure and romance, but in all its pages nothing is more absorbingly interesting and fantastic than the sudden rise to riches of Negroes whose ancestors enjoyed equal rights and privileges with the Indians before Oklahoma was admitted to State hood. These people were adopted by the Indians as members of various tribes.

Indians Aided Negroes

The ancestors of these Negroes came to Indian territory with the Indians during slavery days. Some were slaves. Some married into the various tribes. After Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation the Indians freed all their slaves and made a treaty that all Negroes who settled in their jurisdiction should enjoy all rights and privileges of native citizens.

The provisions of 1866, agreed to by the Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks and Seminoles, were that all persons of African descent who had been resident in the respective territories of these tribes on April 28, 1866, and who before that time had been held in slavery among these tribes and all descendants of such persons, should be entitled to all immunities, including the right of suffrage and an equal share in annuities, moneys and public domain. At the time of this agreement no knowledge existed that there lay hidden in the soil of Indian Territory, now the State of Oklahoma, oil, coal and other natural resources.

In the Government's allotment of land the Indians received holdings in the fertile valleys, while much of the land parceled out to freedmen was among the rocky hills. Then agriculture reigned supreme. When oil was discovered it became apparent the freedmen and their children were owners of the most valuable land, and a wild scramble was begun by promoters to get possession of the property. In some instances they succeeded. But the majority of freedmen have held on to their allotments. They are often wont to comment on the queer twist of fate in their favor.

Women Reap Fortunes

Sara Rector of Muskogee, who is married and living in Kansas City, is perhaps the best known of those who have become rich from their oil holdings. She is said to be worth more than $500,000.

Raymond and Bessie Clayton of Sapulpa were youngsters whose allotments brought them wealth. When Raymond died a short time ago his estate was valued at $650,000. His sister, now Mrs. Bessie Clayton Thompson, is the wife of a young Chicago dentist, Charlie Thompson. She is an attractive young woman who, like Sara Rector, attended Tuskegee Institute. The Thompsons have a palatial Chicago home.

In Creek County, near Sapulpa, a five-room brick school building for Negroes was recently built and is maintained as a county school by the Clayton estate. Henry Lowrence, the children's grandfather, is active in providing for the educational and civic needs of Negroes and the school was named for him.

Luther Manuel of Muskogee, twenty-two, is rated as a millionaire. His allotment is in the great Glenn Pool Oil Field, which is the centre of the midcontinent production. Luther attends school in Boston. Negroes of the Hub City say he entertains lavishly. Rafeld and Herbert Manuel are rich in their own right, but are not in the millionaire class.

The Hickmans of Sapulpa are well known among Negroes throughout the country for their wealth. Willie King of Okmulgee enjoys a good income, as does Miss Rozella Murrell of Okmulgee.

Negro Trustees Upheld

Lewis Inghram, who recently became of age, has been in the limelight the past year because his estate is valued at $750,000, and for the reason that he was principal in a sensational fight over who should be his trustees. While the controversy was raging Inghram was sent to Europe and papers for his detention were issued by the Oklahoma courts. The question involved was whether Lewis had the right to choose Negro trustees. For the first time in the history of Oklahoma, Negroes won the exclusive privilege to look after the business interests of freedmen. Wesly & Atkins, a Negro law firm of this city, are officiating as sole trustees for Inghram.

For years vivid stories have gone out from Oklahoma about gross mismanagement of unscrupulous trustees of the affairs of Indians, and freedmen. Specific instances are related concerning the dissipation of funds and the inability of the victims to secure redress.

A picturesque character known throughout Oklahoma is A. G. W. Sango, a Tulsa lawyer. He is of striking appearance, being of heavy build, white hair and dark complexion. At the recent meeting of the National Negro Business League at Tulsa he was chairman of the Entertainment committee. Sango has spent several fortunes. His first inherited a valuable estate from his father, who was a member of the Creek Tribe and owned much cattle and land.

White and colored people tell of how Sango used to charter a special Pullman car and take a party of friends to St. Louis, Dallas and wherever fancy prompted him. He is one of a number who, in making reference to possessing large sums of money, speaks in the past tense.

In the allotment of Government land parents and children are treated the same. Yet quite often the children are rich in their own right while mothers and fathers are relatively poor. For, while some of the soil demonstrates its fitness for agriculture only, some "says it with oil."

It would be unfair and perhaps misleading if some reference were not made to the trustees who manage the business of freedmen with credit and whose reputations for fair dealing are above reproach.

Property-1925

Kentucky.

SERVANTS GET FORTUNE.

Kentuckian Wills Large Part of Estate to Ex-Slave.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Dec. 16.—(AP)—The highest court in the state has upheld the right of a wealthy landowner to will his $250,000 estate to negro servants, one of them a former slave, in the case of John T. Hughes of Fayette County.

Ellen Davis, an aged, wrinkled negro woman, who was a slave girl owned by Mr. Hughes' mother before the war, was willed 1,350 acres of blue grass land, the family home, Elkton, "a 12-room colonial residence filled with antique furniture, china, silverware and portraits of the Hughes family and other personal property.

"Her son, Robert Henry Hughes, whom his master educated abroad, came into a farm of 160 acres and "my faithful old colored man" was given 96 acres for life. A $1,000 bequest was made to the Kentucky Female Orphans' School at Midway. All of these provisions of the will were upheld by the court of appeals in a decision yesterday after a jury of white men in Fayette County had previously held the will valid and awarded the estate to the negroes.

The court decision upholding the validity of the will will permit an immediate settling of the affairs of the estate, including the giving of deeds of the property directed to be sold, Dr. J. C. Carrick, one of the administrators, said today.

Approximately 600 acres have been sold to Joseph E. Widener of Philadelphia.

Col. Hughes' home place, Elkton, including his beautiful colonial residence and 300 acres of land, has been sold to Payne Whitney, wealthy eastern sportsman, who will use the place as a stock farm.

colonial residence filled with antique furniture, china, silverware and portraits of the Hughes family, and other personal property. 12-19-25

Her son, Robert Henry Hughes, whom her master educated abroad, came into a farm of 160 acres and "my faithful old colored man" was given 96 acres for life. A $100,00 bequest was made to the Kentucky Female Orphans School at Midway. All of these provisions of the will were upheld by the Court of Appeals in a decision after a jury of white men in Fayette County had previously held the will valid and awarded the estate to the Negroes.

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ney of New York, and 600 acres were sold to Joseph E. Widener of Philadelphia. Mr. Whitney will use the place as a stock farm.

Arrangements for the sale were made some time ago. It awaited the end of litigation.

BEQUESTS TO NEGROES UPHELD BY COURT

$250,000 Bequests of Kentuckian Are Upheld

Lexington, Ky., Dec. 16.—The highest court in the State has upheld the right of a wealthy land owner to will his $250,000 estate to Negro servants, one of them a former slave, in the case of John T. Hughes, of Fayette County.

Ellen Davis, an aged Negro woman who was a slave girl owned by Mr. Hughes's mother before the war, was willed 1,350 acres of blue grass land, the family home, "Elkton," a 12-room

NEW YORK CITY WORLD
DECEMBER 17, 1925

NEGROES' INHERITANCE IS SOLD TO SPORTSMEN

Payne Whitney and J. E. Widener Buy 600 Acres of Hughes Estate in Kentucky

LEXINGTON, Ky., Dec. 16 (A. P.)—Sale of about 600 acres of the John T. Hughes estate in Fayette County to two wealthy Eastern sportsmen was announced to-day by Dr. J. C. Carrick, one of the administrators.

Most of the estate, valued at $250,000 was bequeathed to three Negro employees, Ellen Davis, her son Robert Henry Hughes, whom Mr. Hughes had educated abroad and whose paternity he had admitted, and Alex Rankin. Suit was instigated after Mr. Hughes's death to set aside the will, but the Court of Appeals yesterday affirmed a decision of a lower court.

The home place, Elkton, including a colonial residence and 300 acres of land, was sold to Harry Payne Whit-

Property – 1925

Louisiana.

NEGRO SCHOOLS GET $12,000 FROM BLACK 'OIL KING'

Will Opened and Many of Joe Herndon's Kin Are Remembered.

Shreveport, La., Dec. 4.—The Caddo parish school board is among the beneficiaries mentioned in the will of Joe Herndon, wealthy negro, who died a week ago at Texarkana and left valuable properties, including oil producing lands in the Pine Island field near Shreveport. Twelve thousand dollars was willed to the school board to be used in improvement of negro schools.

The will which was opened at the Caddo courthouse today with Attorney E. B. Herndon, Jr., executor, gives $25,000 each to Martha Payne of Rodessa, La., and James Herndon, of Keithville, La., sister and brother, respectively, of the testator, and $16,000 to Pearl E. Randall, a niece, of Texarkana, Texas, to whom also was willed Herndon's home. The brother and sister were also given one-half interest each in the old home place containing 200 acres in section 22, Caddo parish.

Others to whom property was bequeathed are heirs of Jacob Herndon, a brother of the testator; heirs of Dick Tyson, a brother-in-law; heirs of Katie Sewall, a sister; and David Raines, a nephew, all of North Caddo parish. All the rest of the property, real, personal and mixed, was willed to be equally divided between them, to share alike.

C. B. Protho, curator ad hoc, to represent absent heirs, is to have charge of the inventory, which will be necessary to determine the value of the state, which according to newspaper reports from Texarkana, is estimated at around one milion dollars, but in the opinion of persons studying the matter here will not run that high in value, although the negro, Herndon was unusually wealthy.—Times-Picayune.

Editor's Comment: The above article is reprinted here because the management of the Voice considers the will described therein as one of the most liberal and equitable that has ever been bequeathed by a wealthy colored person in recent years. The late Joe Herndon in drawing up his will showed a remarkable spirit of race pride, unselfishness and lack of envy, in that he definitely provided on a most fair basis not only for the future of his near relatives but for his distant kin as well, leaving also a considerable sum of money for the education of his people. If this will may be taken as a picture of the true character of the deceased, when those who knew him best behold that picture in their tender memories of him, they must always see him as a broad-minded, non-begrudging christian gentleman. May those of the Negro race who have gathered unto themselves considerable wealth, when they must cross the Great Divide because of advanced age or some inevitable illness, when drawing up their wills in memory of those they loved best, PROTECT THEIR POSTERITY AND REMEMBER THE NEGRO RACE IN SOME SPECIAL MANNER AS DID MR. JOE HERNDON.

Property-1925

Michigan.

DETROIT'S FIRST CONDUCTOR DIES

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 14.—The funeral service of Mr. Will Cole, pioneer resident of this city, were conducted from the Second Baptist Church, Monday afternoon. Detroit turned out en masse in the final tribute to their native son, who held the distinction of having been the first colored street car conductor of Detroit.

Mr. Cole was born in Detroit in 1870 and received his graded and high school education in the public schools of Detroit. After serving as street car conductor for a number of years, he engaged in the cartage business. In 1917, Mr. Cole began operation as a real estate dealer in which business he was engaged at the time of his death.

The estate of the deceased is conservatively estimated at $100,000. Interment was in Woodmere Cemetery.

Property – 1925

Missouri.

GROVE'S ESTATE GOES TO WIDOW

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 29 (ANP).—The will of the late Junius T. Groves, nationally known as "Potato King," bequeathes his $2,000,000 estate to his widow and eight children. It was filed here for probate Saturday. Mrs Groves and C. L. Brokaw, president of the Commercial National Bank, this city, are named as executors. A clause in Mr. Grove's will requested that the children pool their interests for the purpose of cultivating the lands and increasing their joint holdings and profits.

Property – 1925.

New Jersey

Girl's Claim To Fortune Is Sustained

Amelia M. Stuart to Get Bulk of $50,000 Estate Left Her in Will.

TRENTON, N. J., July 23.—Vice Chancellor Leaming sustained an opinion of Mercer County Orphans' Court that the late Mrs. Emma L. Woodward, white, of Trenton, was neither unduly influenced nor lacking in mental capacity when she bequeathed most of her $50,000 estate to pretty Miss Amelia M. Stuart, prominent Jersey social favorite.

Under the will Miss Stuart receives Mrs. Woodward's home, valued at $25,000, in a residential section here, and most of her personal estate, appraised at $25,000. A sister of Mrs. Woodward got $2,000, a brother-in-law $1,000 and a nephew a like sum.

Property – 1925

New York.

NEW YORK CITY TELEGRAPH
JUNE 20, 1925

Estate of W. H. Tyers, Negro Composer, Is Listed at $1,486

An accounting of the estate left by William H. Tyers, negro composer and musical director, who died on April 18, 1924, made by James N. Anderson as temporary administrator, was approved yesterday by Surrogate O'Brien.

Mr. Tyers left his entire property to Vera Young, a friend, of 114 West 143rd street. His widow, Lena Lightfoot Tyers, of 135 West 138th street, from whom he had been separated, successfully contested the probate of the document. She charged duress, fraud, undue influence and lack of sound mind and memory.

In hi saccounting Mr. Anderson listed the estate at $1,486.43.

Mr. Tyers, who was 56 years old and a native of Petersburg, Va., was brought to Jersey City as a child. He was the composer of "Brazilian Butterfly," "Admiration," "Maori," "Troch" and about twenty other well-known numbers.

He was the first arranger of a syncopated number and had been staff arranger for the Stern Publishing Company, also for F. A. Mills and once director of the Rock & White traveling orchestra. He was a member and one of the officers of the Clef Club, and one of the few negro members of the Authors and Composers' Association.

Hotel Bellmen's Ass'n To Come To Harlem For Home

Sells Downtown Property At Good Profit After 16 Years' Ownership

The Hotel Bellmen's Beneficial Association, incorporated in 1895, with headquarters at 343 West 35th street, which it owns free and clear, recently signed a contract to sell for ($36,000). The present site was purchased about sixteen years ago for $14,500.

The sale was negotiated by the following real estate committee: B. F. Branch, chairman; W. T. Hellum, W. H. Travers, J. W. Gardner, Gradison Hite, R. E. Horn, Alfred E. Brown, Counsellor C. W. McDougald, J. C. Denham, president, ex-officio.

N.Y. Age 3-28-25

Counsellor McDougald, attorney for the Association, was the legal adviser to the committee. The Association expects to find a suitable home in Harlem within the next few months.

Antillean Holding Co. Pays Largest Income Tax Among Race Corporations And John E. Nail Leads Individuals

Income tax returns made public last week show that there are no millionaires in Harlem, despite reports to the contrary. Mme. A'Lelia Walker, head of the Mme. C. J. Walker Manufacturing Co., and generally considered the wealthiest Negro in New York, did not file an income tax in New York City. Her [illegible] was either filed from her Westchester County home, or from the headquarters of the company in Indianapolis, Ind.

New York Age 3-21-25

The Antillean Holding Company, A. A. Austin president, which has offices at 159 West 145th street, filed the largest tax of any Negro corporation in Harlem. This company paid a tax in 1924 of $2,668.94. It is one of the younger real estate firms in Harlem, having been established since 1918. It owns some of the largest and finest apartment house in Harlem.

Non-taxable returns were filed by Thomas C. Tabb, Harlem's leading restauranter, showing that his monthly income was $10,000.

John E. Nail, head of the real estate firm of Nail and Parker filed the largest individual returns made public. His personal tax was $391.75 and that of his firm was $465.94.

Other returns of Harlemites made public were those of Mrs. Dora Wheaton, widow of the late J. Frank Wheaton, widow paid $24.81 and those of her son, Richard Weston, who paid $33.15.

The Age will publish in its next issue other tax returns of colored New Yorkers.

LARGE APARTMENT HOUSE AT 120th STREET AND 7th AVENUE OFFERED COLORED BUYERS

New York Age 11-21-25

Colored invasion of the district between 115th street and Central Park North took decided spurt last week when it became known that the six-story elevator apartment house at 120th street and Seventh avenue was being sold on the cooperative plan to colored tenants.

New York, N. Y.

This house occupies a plot 100x100 feet and is one of the most beautiful properties on Seventh avenue. The apartments are of 5, 6, 7 and 8 rooms, with parquet floors, shower baths, electric lights, telephone and elevator service.

S. J. Cottman, the managing and renting agent, says that cooperative ownership of apartments has done much to solve the housing problem owned house represents a unit of stock. The occupant of the apartment purchases the stock and, after he has paid for it, is assessed only enough rent to pay for the running expenses of the house. The apartments in this house can be purchased at a figure considerably lower than the price of among the middleclass white people of New York during the past two or three years. The cooperative plan enables one to have a home without having to pay heavy taxes and other overhead expenses required of owners of private houses.

Each apartment in a cooperative-a private house and the new owner can get immediate occupancy.

According to Mr. Cottman, the house is 60 per cent sold.

Property - 1925. New York.

NEW YORK CITY TIMES
APRIL 21, 1926

F. H. Sargent, Dean of Dramatic Art Teachers, Left Estate to School of Acting He Founded

Franklin H. Sargent, dean of American teachers of acting, who committed suicide in a hotel at Plattsburgh, N. Y., on Aug. 29, 1923, while on his way to New York from his home in Clinton County, left an estate appraised yesterday at $103,827. Mr. Sargent had filed a codicil to his will in the Surrogate's office at Plattsburgh shortly before engaging a room in the hotel where he shot himself.

At the time of his death Mr. Sargent's associates could ascribe no cause for his suicide because his financial condition was known to be satisfactory and his school, the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, which he founded nearly forty years ago, was flourishing. David Belasco, one of the most intimate of Mr. Sargent's friends, ascribed his act to loneliness and to his regret that no person of wealth had volunteered to establish his dramatic school on a solid foundation.

The appraisal filed yesterday shows that Mr. Sargent did the best he could to offset such supposed disappointment. He gave his residuary estate to the school and also left to the trustees of the institution the principal of three trust funds created for his associates in the school. These funds comprised his 650 shares of stock in the school, appraised at $82,233, which was based on average earnings of $6,496.

The three trust funds went to Benjamin F. Roeder, named as executor, Emil R. Diestel and Charles Jehlinger. The trustees of the school are directed to use the income from the residuary estate, $20,926, and the principal of the trust funds upon the death of the beneficiaries, to establish scholarships for deserving students at the academy and to "further the best interests and aims" of the school.

Mr. Sargent gave his housekeeper, Sadie Walker, a negro, who had been in his employ for many years, forty-four shares of American Telephone and Telegraph Company stock, valued at $5,434, and his real estate at Merrill, Clinton County, for her "faithful promotion" of his interests. His half brother, Arthur W. Sargent, received $500 in cash, and his nephew, Edward H. Sargent, got personal effects valued at $826, consisting mostly of paintings.

The will gave to Margaret S. Appleton, a second cousin, a sofa, valued at $1,200, which is a mahogany French Empire piece covered with Gobelin tapestry. The Sargent Murray Gilman House at Gloucester, Mass., received a pair of Marie Antoinette gold andirons appraised at $5,000, and a gilt frame Marie Antoinette arm chair, worth $2,500. The institution also received a collection of religious books and sermons owned by Mr. Sargent's father. Gifts of personal effects were made to relatives.

Property - 1925

Oklahoma.

WHITES ON HOT CHASE AFTER HALF MILLION

Fight To Control Oil Lands of William King a Real Oklahoma Scramble

KING REACHED 21ST YEAR LAST WEEK

Under The State Law He Must Turn Management Over To Others

Black Dispatch News Service

Okmulgee, Okla., (B. D. N. S.)--Chasing a half million dollars has made many whites in this city and country forget all about Jim Crow and segregation during the past few months.

White folks have been sleeping in the same house with Negroes in order that the wrong white men did not get too close to Willie King, wealthy Okmulgee Negro who reached his majority last Monday. The chase is over now, it ended when in county court, Crittendon Smith, former guardian, was named trustee of the big estate.

Dog Killed During Watch

Deputy Sheriff Jim Winn was placed on guard of Willie shortlf after a big bulldog, that was supposed to assist in the watching died for some unexplained cause. From that time onWillie's guardian saw to it that even a mob did not have a chance to get one black man in Okmulgee County, and it is a safe bet that if a mob had approached the King residence at 913 E. Third St., the usual story about "unidentified persons' would have been knocked into a cocked hat.

Willie Has Rare Judgment

W.W. Woods, attorney for Clark, the trustee, gave out an interview today announcing that Willie had rare business judgment, it is supposed that Wood referred to Willie's signing the declaration of trust, which will enable Wood to continue to draw fat fees for giving advice about investing Willie's money in property. It being pointed out that if Willie has the rare business judgment to which Wood refers, he might just as well have gotten rid of Wood and Clark and managed his own estate, with the assistance of Negro attorneys in Okmulgee.

Only $300 A Month

To outsiders it would look a deal like Willie had already been kidnapped before he became of age for the reason that he was only allowed $300 per month by his guardian, while the annual income from his estate was from $50,000 to $60,000.

Wood in his statement today intimated that the fear of Willie for the past 4 months had been that he would be kidnapped, and it is reported that attorneys from all over Oklahoma sought audiences with young King. Willie, of course, had been taught that under no circumstances should he allow a Negro to act for him.

Under today's declaration of trust he wil be allowed by "de white folks" to build another home and look occasionally at books, in the meantime, for another five years. Clark and Wood will have full control of the King estate.

$370,000 Estate

The estate at the present consists of approximately $370,000 in first mortgages, bearing 8 per cent interest and the King allotment in the 14-11 oil pool. There are 120 acres in the oil bearing properties of King, while another 40 acres near Beggs has never produced oil although the lease sold several years ago for $3,000 King receives more than $20,000 annually from his allotment.

A legal fight occured 16 years ago when M. W. Alexander, then county judge appointed Crittendon Smith as guardian for Willie King, and Judge Wood as attorney for the guardian. At that time the estate consisted of something less than $200 in cash and 160 acres.

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NEARLY MILLION DOLLARS AWAIT COLORED WOMAN

(By Associated Negro Press)

Kansas City, Mo., March 25—So far, Mrs. Emma Johnson, 37, has not made her appearance to claim a fortune of $750,000 in Oklahoma oil lands. A white attorney of Oklahoma was in the city this week seeking only to hand Mrs. Johnson three quarters of a millon dollars. The woman is said to have married an Indian in Oklahoma and later to have left him. When he died some years ago, half of his 160 acres went to the tribe and half was held in trust for his wife. Oil has since been found and Mrs. Johnson is now nearly a millionairess—if she only knew it.

NEW YORK CITY WORLD
SEPTEMBER 13, 1925

Oklahoma Negroes Grow Rich on Oil

Two Worth Million While Others' Wealth Exceeds $500,000

By Lester A. Walton

MUSKOGEE, Okla., Sept. 12.—Out here in Oklahoma one comes in personal contact with more duly accredited and potentially wealthy Negroes per capita than can be found in any other State. Oil is their fairy-godmother. High-powered motor cars are their passion.

In this young commonwealth where oil is king and riches come to the fortunate in Aladdin-like fashion overnight, it is an easy matter to point out scores of Negroes whose wealth runs into six figures. One or two are rated as millionaires. A freedman whose only source of income to-day is from agricultural pursuits may wake up to-morrow to learn that from the discovery of an oil well he or she has been catapulted into affluence.

Oklahoma's history teems with adventure and romance, and in all its pages nothing is more absorbingly interesting and fantastic than the sudden rise to riches of Negroes whose ancestors enjoyed equal rights and privileges with the Indians before Oklahoma was admitted to Statehood. These people were adopted by the Indians as members of various tribes.

Indians Aided Negroes

The ancestors of these Negroes came to Indian Territory with the Indians during slavery days. Some were slaves. Some married into the various tribes. After Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation the Indians freed all their slaves and made a treaty that all Negroes who settled in their jurisdiction should enjoy all rights and privileges of native citizens.

The provisions of 1866, agreed to by the Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks and Seminoles, were that all persons of African descent who had been resident in the respective territories of these tribes on April 28, 1866, and who before that time had been held in slavery among these tribes, and all descendants of such persons, should be entitled to all immunities, including the right of suffrage and an equal share in annuities, moneys and public domain. At the time of this agreement no knowledge existed that there lay hidden in the soil of Indian Territory, now the State of Oklahoma, oil, coal and other natural resources.

In the Government's allotment of land the Indians received holdings in the fertile valleys, while much of the land parceled out to freedmen was among the rocky hills. Then agriculture reigned supreme. When oil was discovered it became apparent the freedmen and their children were owners of the most valuable land, and a wild scramble was begun by promoters to get possession of the property. In some instances they succeeded. But the majority of freedmen have held on to their allotments. They are often wont to comment on the queer twist of fate in their favor.

Women Reap Fortunes

Sara Rector of Muskogee, who is married and living in Kansas City, is perhaps the best known of those who have become rich from their oil holdings. She is said to be worth more than $500,000.

Raymond and Bessie Clayton of Sapulpa were youngsters whose allotments brought them wealth. When Raymond died a short time ago his estate was valued at $650,000. His sister, now Mrs. Bessie Clayton Thompson, is wife of a young Chicago dentist, Charlie Thompson. She is an attractive young woman who, like Sara Rector, attended Tuskegee Institute. The Thompsons have a palatial Chicago home.

In Creek County, near Sapulpa, a five-room brick school building for Negroes was recently built and is maintained as a county school by the Clayton estate. Henry Lowrence, the children's grandfather, is active in providing for the educational and civic needs of Negroes and the school was named for him.

Luther Manuel of Muskogee, twenty-two, is rated as a millionaire. His allotment is in the great Glenn Pool Oil Field, which is the centre of the midcontinent production. Luther attends school in Boston. Negroes of the Hub City say he entertains lavishly. Rafeld and Herbert Manuel are rich in their own right, but are not in the millionaire class.

The Hickmans of Sapulpa are well known among Negroes throughout the country for their wealth. Willie King of Okmulgee enjoys a good income, as does Miss Fozella Murrell of Okmulgee.

Negro Trustees Upheld

Lewis Inghram, who recently became of age, has been in the limelight the past year because his estate is valued at $750,000, and for the reason that he was principal in a sensational fight over who should be his trustees. While the controversy was raging, Inghram was sent to Europe and papers for his detention were issued by the Oklahoma courts. The question involved was whether Lewis had the right to choose Negro trustees. For the first time in the history of Oklahoma, Negroes won the exclusive privilege to look after the business interests of freedmen. Wesly & Atkins, a Negro law firm of this city, are officiating as sole trustees for Inghram.

For years vivid stories have gone out from Oklahoma about gross mismanagement of unscrupulous trustees of the affairs of Indians and freedmen. Specific instances are related concerning the dissipation of funds and the inability of the victims to secure redress.

A picturesque character known throughout Oklahoma is A. G. W. Sango, a Tulsa lawyer. He is of striking appearance, being of heavy build, white hair and dark complexion. At the recent meeting of the National Negro Business League at Tulsa he was Chairman of the Entertainment Committee. Sango has spent several fortunes. His first inherited a valuable estate from his father, who was a member of the Creek Tribe and owned much cattle and land.

White and colored people tell of how Sango used to charter a special Pullman car and take a party of friends to St. Louis, Dallas and wherever fancy prompted him. He is one of a number who, in making reference to possessing large sums of money, speaks in the past tense.

In the allotment of Government land parents and children are treated the same. Yet quite often the children are rich in their own right while mothers and fathers are relatively poor. For, while some of the soil demonstrates its fitness for agriculture only, some "says it with oil."

It would be unfair and perhaps misleading if some reference were not made to the trustees who manage the business of freedmen with credit and whose reputations for fair dealing are above reproach.

WHITES BATTLE FOR $200,000 TUCKER ESTATE

Court Is Asked To Adjudge Oklahoma Oil Man Incompetent

ATTORNEYS OUTWIT WHITE GUARDIANS

Hide Oil Man In Chicago And Force Whites To Release Property

Muskogee, Oklahoma, (Staff Correspondence)—"We hate the Negro, but we love his money."

This in substance is the motto of a group of white people, trying to get control of the $200,000 estate of black Luther Tucker, a Creek freedman who became of age last month.

Tucker received an allotment of some 160 acres of U. S. farm lands. Oil was discovered, and the value is now placed at $125,000. His income is thought to be from fifteen to twenty thousand dollars a year, and he has accumulated personal property valued at $75,000.

16 Oil Wells

In the estate are 16 producing oil wells, several farms and valuable city property.

Under Oklahoma law, white guardians had charge of the estate until Tucker became of age. Then the property became his to do as he liked. Frequently, however, the court judges the native incompetent to handle his own property and appoints the white guardians as trustees. In this way whites make a big slice of money off Negroes in commissions.

Several days before Tucker became of age, he was taken to Louisville, Ky., in order to get out of jurisdiction of the Oklahoma state courts. The white guardians, it is believed, were trying to get themselves appointed trustees.

Meantime, his wife, whom he had been induced to marry before he became of age, filed suit for divorce, and half his property. She also asked injunction to prevent him disposing of his property until the case was settled, and asked the court to appoint guardians. This was also alleged to be the work of the guardians.

Wife And Grafters Outwitted

Tucker outwitted his wife and the guardians by employing the big law firm of Wesley, Atkins and Chandler, race attorneys, guaranteeing them $5,000 fee. They took Tucker from Louisville, Ky., ten days before he became of age, and kept him on the go, traveling from Texas to Montreal, Canada, dodging service of any papers by Oklahoma court officials.

As soon as he became of age, he appointed Mack Jackson, his uncle, his mother, Daisy Rowe, and friend, P. A. Lewis, as trustees, conveyed his property to them and signed a power of attorney over to his colored lawyers. Mr. Lewis, who is wealthy, is said to have advised colored attorneys.

Lawyers Get Busy

Tucker's lawyers, Wesley, Atkins and Chandler, who have made a reputation of salvaging Negro property from white trustees, went back to Muskogee and asked the court to turn the Tucker property over to them.

The court turned over the real property, but left the $75,000 personal property in the hands of the white guardians.

Immediately the attorneys went into the United States Court and filed a suit for $25,000 damages against the county judge, and the white guardians for refusal to turn the property over, and are keeping Tucker hidden in Chicago where no papers can be served on him.

Tucker Lost Big Chance

Friends who knew Tucker well, declare he has lost a big chance to make good in life. He could have had the best education, but did not stay in school. He broke his mother's heart by failure to get a full education.

His home, located in the country from Haskell, Okla., on a high hill, is equipped with every luxury and convenience. The surrounding fertile farms, as far as the eye can see, are property of Tucker and his mother. He also owns two cars, a Cadillac roadster and an Oldsmobile.

Property - 1925

South Carolina.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont

Charlotte, N. C., Observer

MAY 6 1925

WEALTHY NEGROES' WILLS ARE FILED

Near Half Million Dollars Said to Be Represented in Estates of Goldsmith and Ann White

The last wills and testaments of two of Greenville's wealthiest negroes, Blake D. Goldsmith and Ann White, who died here recently, have been filed in the office of Mrs. Fannie C. Scott for probation, it was learned this morning.

While the real property of the two negroes was not appraised as to value the two estates will run in value almost to a half million dollars, it was estimated.

The will of the late Goldsmith, who owned, among other property the building and lot at the corner of Richardson and Coffee streets, gives Lida Goldsmith, the deceased's wife, the cash sum of $500. To W. H. Goldsmith, his brother, $1,000 was left.

The remainder of the estate, which is said to be worth more than $100,000, is left to the deceased's sister, Mattie G. Farmer and her niece, Willie B. Farmer.

Mattie Farmer is named executrix.

It is understood that the wife is planning to contest the will.

The entire estate of the late Anne White, which included valuable property at the corner of West Washington and Academy streets, is left to Alice Thompson, the deceased's adopted daughter. At the death of the adopted daughter, and in the event that she leaves no children to survive her, the estate is to become the property of the Matoon Presbyterian church. Rev. B. F. McDowell is named executor of the estate.

JUN 23 1925

BISHOP CHAPPELLE LEFT ESTATE OF OVER $16,000

Will of Late President of Allen University Filed at Columbia, S. C.

Special to The Observer.

COLUMBIA, S. C., June 22.—An estate valued at approximately $16,343 has been left by William D. Chappelle, negro bishop of Columbia, to be divided among his widow, five children and several grandchildren, according to his will filed with the judge of probate, J. Duncan Bellinger, today.

Bishop Chappelle, one of the leading negroes of the state, died here last week. He was for two administrations president of Allen university here.

To his widow, Rosina C. Chappelle, he left his Cadillac sedan, household furniture, fixtures and equipment and the remainder of the estate not given to his children and grandchildren, the whole amounting to about $6,000 in value. Five thousand dollars of his estate is to be invested, the income to be used to assist his son, Henry Talmadge Chappelle, in completing his education. After five years the invested money is to be divided equally between his sons, Henry and Leroy Palmer Chappelle.

To another son, William D. Chappelle, Jr., is left $1,000, and to two daughters, Lula K. Nelson and Clotelle D. Williams, $1,000 each. One hundred dollars is left to each of six grandchildren.

NEGRO RESIDENT OF COUNTY WILLS $20,000 TO WIFE

$10,000 in Cash; Fulfills Pledge of $250 to Pleasant Grove Church.

An estate of $19,857, of which more than $10,000 was listed as cash deposits in banks, was left by M. H. Brown, late negro resident of Landrum, who died January 21, according to the will probated Wednesday afternoon by R. Burton Hicks, judge of probate court.

The entire estate, with the exception of $250 given to Pleasant Grove M. E. church, was left to the widow of the deceased, Isabella Brown, 56, of Landrum. The provision for the church was in fulfillment of a pledge made some time before, the will explained. The document bore date of December 19, 1921.

The integral parts of the estate were: Personal property, $10,857 comprising $10,000 cash in banks, $225 mortgages or securities; $12 open accounts; $200 in automobiles, $250 in livestock and cattle; $130 farm products; $25 in farming implements, etc.; $15 in household goods. Real estate, $9,000, comprising 70 acres and two houses in Landrum school district, valued at $5,000, and a house and lot in Winston-Salem, N. C., valued at $4,000.

Property – 1925

Tennessee.

MEMPHIS TENN. SCIMITAR
FEBRUARY 22, 1925

Sell Block of Negro Investment Property

Purchase of a block of negro investment property consisting of 10 homes on the west side of Bey avenue, near Carnes avenue, in Montgomery park subdivision, has been closed by N. M. Byars, Judge Ben Capel and Aaron Sternberger, attorneys.

The property was purchased from F. K. McRae and six of the homes already have been resold by the buyers. The property is in one of the modern negro subdivisions, served by city water and sewer. The price paid was about $20,000.

Colored Man Leaves Half Million Fortune

KNOXVILLE, TENN., April 15.—(A. N. P.)—Leaving an estate estimated at half a million dollars, Caledonia Fackler Johnson, better known as "Cal" Johnson, a widely known philanthropist, died here Tuesday afternoon. He made a fortune in race horses, but has given much of it for parks and other benevolent causes. One of the city's largest parks is named for him. He has an office building on Gay Street, the main business thoroughfare, and his modest frame home on State street nestles among the business buildings, he having refused tempting offers for the site of his home. Johnson also owned a building at the corner of Gay and Central and many other valuable pieces of property.

Property — 1925

Texas.

ST. PAUL, MINN. DISPATCH
FEBRUARY 25, 1925

NEGRO OIL MAGNATE IN LAW FIGHT HERE

Asks Change of Attorneys in Suit for Interests in Texas Well.

The affairs of Rhodolphus Ellis, youny colored man, now a resident of St. Paul, who is interested in a producing oil well in Texas, came into court today when he sought to change attorneys in an action he has pending in the Federal courts of Texas to have restored to him his alleged share of the oil interests.

While still a minor, his brother Edward Ellis obtined from him a power of attorney and through the power of attorney transferred most of the minor's interest to an oil company. A huge oil strike was made, and relatives came into court to have the transfer of the minor's interest set aside on the ground that he was a minor and incapacitated thereby from giving a power of attorney.

Rules for Guardian.

He came to St. Paul and a guardian was named for him in probate court here. Last fall he attained his majority and he sought to have the guardian removed and to be restored to his property rights. G. C. Axlerod, St. Paul attorney, represented him, but Judge Howard Wheeler ruled that even though he had become of age, his best interests demanded that the guardian be continued and Mr. Axelrod contends that Rhodulphus retained him to appeal the case.

Recently Rhodolphus has decided he wishes to go ahead with his action against the oil company, especially in view of the fact that the company has discontinued payments of his share of the royalties because the guardian was not removed.

Agrees to Retire.

The hearing on a change of attorneys came up before District Judge Hugo O. Hanft today. Rhodolphus told the court he wished Sanborn, Graves & Ordway, St. Paul attorneys, to represent him, to which Mr. Axelrod declared he would not object if he were paid his fees for the work he has done. Judge Hanft gave him time to settle the question of fees, when he is expected to retire from the case.

Since the oil well was discovered, it was reported that approximately $3,000,000 worth of oil has been taken from the Ellis land. Rhodolphus, if he is successful in his action against the company, will be entitled to one-thirteenth of this.

The action is to set aside these transfers and also for back royalties alleged due.

Black Gold Wins; Family Is Wealthy

Beaumont, Tex., March 13.—Allen Barrett, a poor man who had worked many years on a tract of nearly barren soil to maintain himself, his wife and 11 children, stood by on March 2 with all of his children and watched the blowing in of an oil well estimated at 3000 barrels daily on a corner of his stone-ridden farm in the center of the new South Liberty field near here. Three more wells are being drilled on the Barrett place. Thus far there has not been a dry hole encountered in the field, and prospects are for other gushers on Barrett's holdings.

The well, which in a twinkling transformed Barrett and his family from comparative poverty to riches, is the Vacuum-Barrett No. 1. It came in suddenly with a roar heard five miles away, while arrangements were being made by the drilling crew for its completion. Barrett and his 11 children had been on the scene all day, attracted by the unusual activity about the well, but skeptical, as they always had been, over the ultimate results of the test.

When the well came in a geyser of oil spouted over the derrick and drenched Barrett and some of his youngsters, some of whom wallowed gleefully in the dark, heavy fluid, which had taken them from poverty to wealth estimated at $2,000 daily.